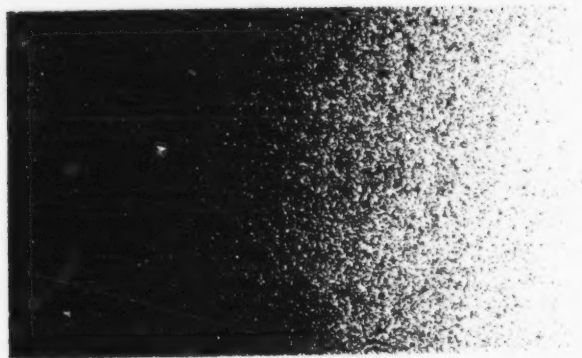


THE FUTURE OF THE YUKON'S RENEWABLE RESOURCES



Yukon

Renewable Resources
David Porter - Minister
December 1985

A DISCUSSION PAPER

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1. INTRODUCTION

THE GREEN PAPER

This paper provides an outline of the Department of Renewable Resources' responsibilities and some renewable resource issues in the Yukon at the present time. The major objective in preparing this document is to encourage public participation. **Your opinions and input will play a valuable role in shaping and determining the future work of the department.**

SCOPE OF THE PAPER

The paper highlights those issues which are of major interest and importance to a wide number of people and which serve as good examples of the department's work. Your reaction to these issues will help us develop a set of priorities for future department activities. If there are issues which we have missed, we hope you will raise them.

All the major renewable resource sectors and programmes are discussed in this paper, including some which are not yet the responsibility of the department.

Sectors

- Big Game
- Small Game
- Agriculture
- Parks and Protected Areas
- Wilderness Recreation
- Forestry (federal)
- Fisheries (federal)
- Water (federal)

Programmes

- Public Involvement
- Conservation Education
- Enforcement
- Research
- New Programmes

COMMON THEMES

The Yukon government is committed to achieving a fair settlement of land claims with the aboriginal people of the Yukon. A land claims settlement will result in a wide range of rights for the Yukon's native people in land, water and wildlife management. The Department of Renewable Resources will increase the involvement of the

Yukon aboriginal people in joint renewable resource management programmes. The Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement provides an excellent example of the way in which user groups will work with government in the management of the Yukon's resources. Other positive instances of joint management will occur in the future, including aboriginal representation on land use planning boards and committees.

The Department of Renewable Resources is involved in the management of several renewable resources, such as wildlife, but has little jurisdiction over the habitats occupied by the wildlife. Once additional management responsibilities for lands, forestry and water resources are transferred to the Yukon government, the department will be able to integrate the various management programmes and provide more effective methods to protect and manage fish and wildlife habitat.

Many resource issues involve conflicts between individuals or groups who want to use different resources in the same local areas. A co-operative approach to planning resource uses in each area will help resolve many of the problems. For this reason the department is working on the establishment of a land use planning process involving the federal government, the Council for Yukon Indians, communities and Indian bands. In areas where agricultural, forestry, native, outfitting, trapping, recreational and other interests are conflicting, co-operative resolution of the issues can be accomplished.

To establish renewable resources as a developing and stable part of the Yukon economy means that there must be co-operation between the various government departments and the private sector. In particular, Renewable Resources must continue to strengthen its ties with the Economic Development, Tourism, and Community and Transportation Services departments of the Yukon government, with federal departments and with user and interest groups. The department recognizes the special knowledge that is shared by hunters,

trappers and other resource users in the communities. It will look for ways in which this knowledge and information can be used more fully in making decisions about game management and land use.

The quality of government programmes is measured against our success in meeting the aspirations of the people of the Yukon. The Department of Renewable Resources is committed to building stronger lines of communication with Indian bands, communities and user groups. We are certain that there are better ways for the government to allow more direct control by users in the management of their resources. We believe that the transfer of some management responsibilities to the community level is possible and necessary to meet the needs of all Yukoners.

Please join with us in reviewing the important issues described in the Green Paper. We look forward to your views and feelings about the future of the Yukon's renewable resources.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

There are several steps in the review process. It began with the establishment of a Select Committee of the Legislature on Renewable Resources. It continued with the development of the **Green Paper** and with the initial meetings of the Select Committee. The next step will be the review of this **Green Paper** during community meetings which will aid in the preparation and presentation of resource management recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

The community meetings will be a key component of the public review process. The Select Committee will travel throughout the Yukon and will provide an opportunity for all interested individuals, groups and organizations to present their views on key resource management topics. These views will influence the final recommendations of the Committee.

After the Select Committee has finished the series of hearings,

they will prepare a report for the legislature. The minister, in consultation with his cabinet colleagues, will incorporate those recommendations, which have been approved, into a strategic plan for the department. Once this plan is prepared more detailed management plans will be developed along with the required policies, programmes and legislation. These plans will provide the basis for the activities of the department in the future.

**Select Committee
Appointed and Green
Paper Released**

**Community Meetings
and Consultation**

**Analysis & Research
on Issues**

**Report to the
Legislature**

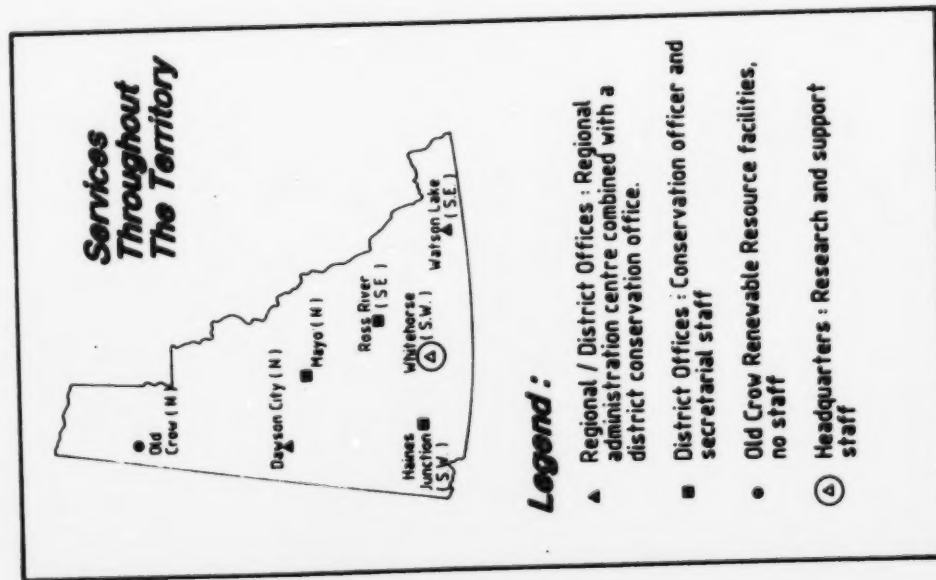
2. THE DEPARTMENT OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES

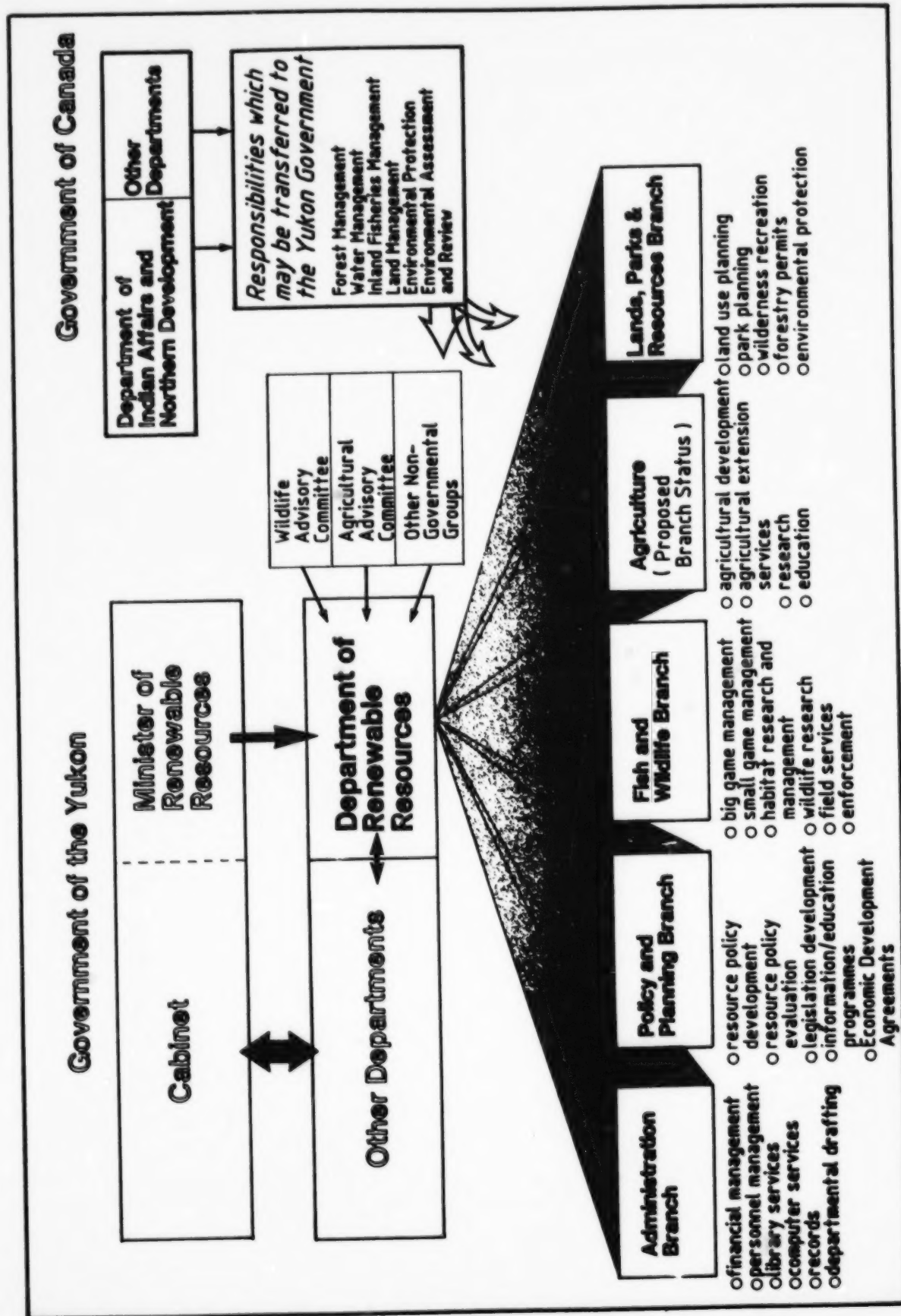
The renewable natural resources of the Yukon include water, fish, wildlife, lands and forests. These resources support both economic and recreational activities of Yukoners. Trapping, outfitting, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, sport and subsistence hunting, and sport fishing provide enjoyment and employment for a great many residents. The Yukon's unique wilderness resource also has national and international value attracting many visitors each year.

The responsibility for managing the Yukon's natural resources and ensuring that we do not overuse or abuse them, is split between the federal and territorial governments. The diagram on the facing page shows the relationship between the governments, and the relationship of the department with other government departments. It also lists the existing services of the Department of Renewable Resources.

The department encourages input from non-governmental organizations such as the Council for Yukon Indians, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Conservation Society, the Yukon Trappers Association, the Yukon Livestock and Agriculture Association, the Association of Wilderness Guides, the Yukon Visitors Association, Heritage North, Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Fur Institute of Canada, and similar groups which have interests in the Yukon's renewable resources.

Eventually, management of many of the resources now controlled by the federal government (land, water, forests, inland fisheries) may be transferred to the territorial government. This transfer process, and the fair settlement of the land claims of the Yukon's aboriginal people, means that the Department of Renewable Resources must design new, wide reaching co-operative management programmes.





3. RENEWABLE RESOURCE GOALS

The Yukon government's management of the territory's renewable resources is based on the following goals:

1. To conserve the Yukon's renewable resources and maintain a high standard of environmental quality.
2. To develop the renewable resource economy in a manner that ensures long-term benefits to Yukoners.
3. To assume additional management powers and responsibilities in an orderly manner for all areas of renewable resource and environmental management. This will encourage management that is responsive to local needs and places a high priority on the conservation and development of our resources.
4. To provide a full range of recreational opportunities for Yukoners and to support viable renewable resource based lifestyle opportunities for Yukon residents.
5. To ensure that the department's programmes are run efficiently and effectively.
6. To allow public involvement in the development and review of departmental programmes, policies and legislation.
7. To ensure that departmental programmes reflect the rights and involvement of aboriginal people in renewable resource management and use.
8. To ensure that the management of renewable resources is consistent with our national and international responsibilities.



4. RESOURCE SECTORS

To The Reader

In each of the following descriptions of renewable resource sectors and management issues we are trying to do three things; to provide some basic information on the status of the resource; to indicate how the Department of Renewable Resources manages the resource (and in some cases how we would like to); and most importantly, to describe some of the most significant issues and the ways (options) of dealing with these.

The description of issues is very short and in some cases does not do justice to complex situations. The range of options described for each issue is also very short and is most likely not complete. The purpose of the paper is to provide a basis for discussion during the community meetings and to allow the Select Committee to get a sense of what each community considers to be the important issues.

The complete list of issues dealt with by the department, the full range of options, and the eventual recommendations to cabinet on the management of the Yukon's renewable resources will be based on the work of the Select Committee and the input from public groups and individuals.

4.1 BIG GAME

PRESENT

The populations of big game in the Yukon are recognized as some of the most significant in North America and the importance to Yukoners is well established. The populations appear to be generally healthy. However our census data are incomplete. Our understanding of the distributions and concentrations of each species is growing but we need to know more. We do know that there are some problems in areas like the s.w. Yukon where we have evidence of a declining moose population and high calf mortality rates. This is caused by heavy hunting pressure and high predation rates. As a result of recent field studies there is also reason to be concerned about the woodland caribou herds. The department intends to spend more time, effort and resources on these problems and the management of these herds.

Yukoners and visitors are permitted to hunt for moose, caribou, sheep, goats, black bear and grizzly bears. Cougar, bison, elk, muskoxen, mule deer and polar bear are protected species and hunting is not permitted.

The primary objective of the Renewable Resources Department's Fish and Wildlife Branch is to preserve and build the numbers and types of big game animals in the Yukon. The big game section of the branch operates under the terms of the Wildlife Act and Regulations, and staff develop and implement a variety of big game management programmes. At the present time a large proportion of the departmental budget and personnel time is focused on examining the relationship between species like moose and the predators which use them as food. This is controversial work because people often disagree about the most important uses for wildlife. Until we know more about the nature of the relationship between predators and prey, it is difficult to do a proper job of management.

The natural habitats of big game are also studied by the department. The habitat unit undertakes basic inventory work and eval-

uates the potential of land and water areas to support wildlife. The department provides input to several federal government advisory committees which review the effect of industrial and other developments on the natural environment. The federal government holds the primary land management role, however, and the split responsibilities make the protection of critical wildlife habitat a more difficult task.

Big game in the Yukon are managed to meet the needs of both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Consumptive users include aboriginal people who hunt animals for subsistence, resident hunters who hunt big game for meat and non-resident hunters who are outfitted for wilderness experiences and trophy hunting. Non-consumptive users range from backcountry photographers to tourists who stop on the highway to view the sheep on Sheep Mountain. Both groups of users, with very few exceptions, recognize the basic intrinsic value of wildlife and work to ensure that the various species are not overharvested or harassed.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

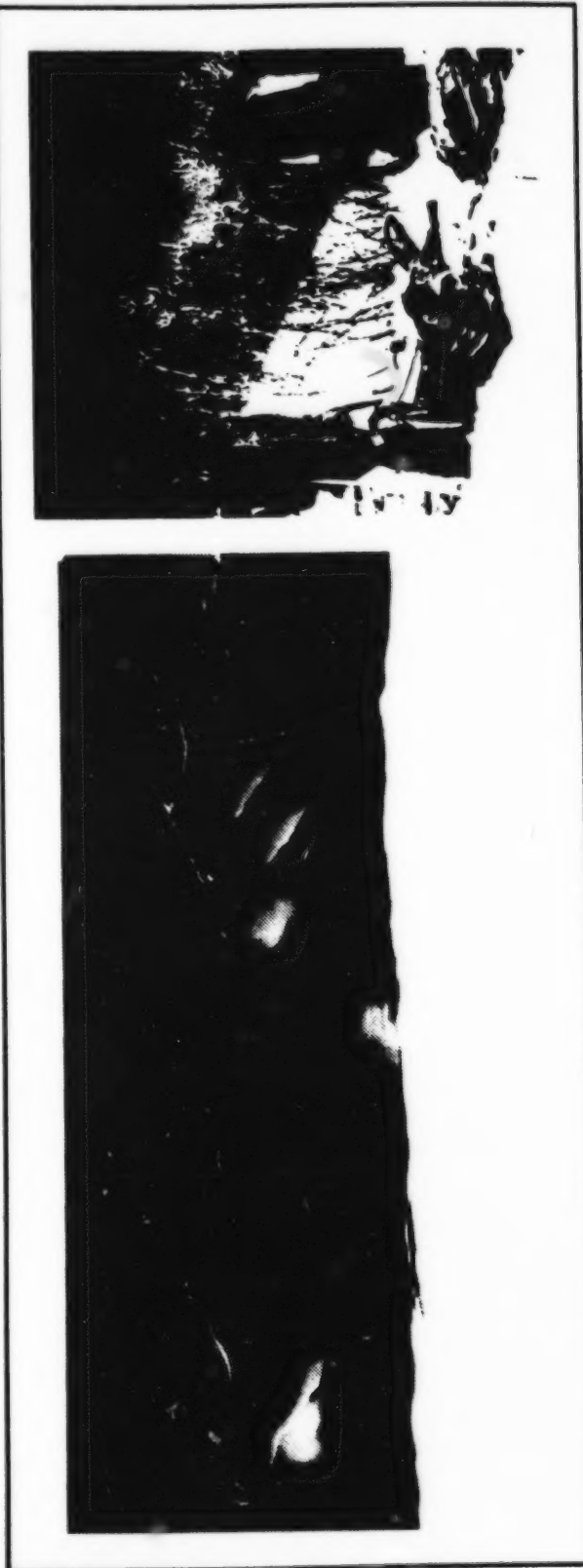
Programmes in the big game section are numerous, and have a broad set of objectives. A sample of these programmes include the:

- moose predator study in southwest Yukon in Game Management Zones 7 and 9 (to increase moose numbers and evaluate the cost effectiveness of predator control programmes as a management strategy)
- wood bison reintroduction to the Nisling River area (to build a Yukon population of this long endangered species)
- population studies of the Porcupine and the woodland caribou herds (to determine population numbers and trends, numbers harvested and basic biological information).

Input on departmental decisions regarding big game manage-

ment is provided by a number of people. Outfitter discussions with biologists and conservation officers provide valuable information about numbers and types of species encountered during the hunting season. Indian band members likewise provide valuable information on the population levels of game hunted. The Fish and Game Association provides input to the department on its programmes, on regulations and on regulation changes. Hunters bring in biological samples and fill in hunter questionnaires.

The volunteer auxiliary conservation officers, by giving advice and assistance to the conservation officers and departmental biologists, also add to public participation and departmental management decisions. The Minister of Renewable Resources is advised on policy and regulation issues by the Wildlife Advisory Committee, a 10 member group whose members are chosen from key wildlife user and interest groups across the territory.



BIG GAME ISSUES

The value of wildlife can be described in several different ways. Wildlife has an intrinsic value as part of the natural environment as well as social and cultural importance for the people of the Yukon. Meat and other products provide the basis for an important subsistence economy. Sport hunting by both residents and non-residents contributes both directly and indirectly to the cash economy. Yukoners and tourists who observe but do not harvest wildlife also contribute to the economy of the territory.

Managing to protect these values and to meet the needs of all these various users gives rise to several important issues:

1. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE BIG GAME POPULATIONS

The primary objective of the Fish and Wildlife Branch is the maintenance of the existing populations of animals. Where hunting pressures increase this becomes harder and harder to do.

- Options:
- more hunting regulations, particularly where big game species are in decline or at low population levels
 - regulating methods of hunting
 - protecting critical habitat areas

Another important objective of the Fish and Wildlife Branch is to increase the numbers of various animal populations (moose, goats, woodland caribou) to improve both hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. The success of our efforts to do this varies from area to area and depends on a number of factors. If a lack of habitat is the limiting factor, we can try to increase the area available by activities such as burning. If there are too many predators, we can try to reduce their numbers. Both activities have other consequences, however. Habitat improvement by burning affects forestry, agriculture, trapping and recreation. Predator control raises objections

from those who place different values on particular species.

- Options:
- to continue experimental programmes with wildlife enhancement
 - to eliminate predator control programmes and allow natural fluctuations to influence hunting success
 - to limit expansion of forestry, agriculture and recreation in areas of prime wildlife habitat

2. ALLOCATING THE AVAILABLE BIG GAME AMONG USERS

As hunting pressures grow and as we learn more about the biological limits to hunting, problems arise when we try to decide on the numbers of animals that should be taken by each group. In all cases, subsistence hunting has priority over sport hunting but there is no strongly stated policy on allocation among other users.

- Options:
- resident hunters should have priority over non-resident
 - non-residents should have priority over residents

3. USING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES FOR HUNTING

As all-terrain vehicles become more rugged and sophisticated it becomes easier to hunt and to gain access to areas that may not have been previously hunted. Hunting success increases and there is new pressure on the game populations.

- Options:
- limit hunting from certain types of ATV's
 - limit the areas available to ATV's
 - limit the construction of new roads into important wildlife habitat

4. BIG GAME RANCHING

There is growing interest in game ranching (elk and other species) in the Yukon. The industry could provide "wild" meat for restaurant use, for local sale and for export; provide animal products for crafts and other uses; and provide direct opportunities for wildlife viewing.

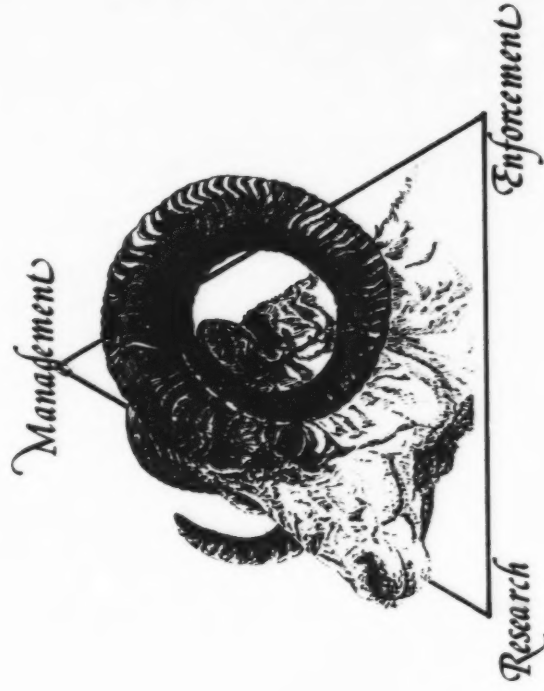
Options: — to fully support the development of game ranching and to reserve lands for these purposes
— to limit the lands to be allocated for game ranching, thus limiting the growth of the industry

FUTURE

As we gain an improved understanding of the biology of our big game animals we will be able to improve the ways in which we manage them. We are committed to manage the populations for the sustained use of big game by Yukoners, using both scientific and traditional sources of knowledge in the communities. In the future our management activities will be improved as our research programmes continue.

The transfer of responsibilities for inland fisheries, forests, and water will eventually allow us to better combine our existing species management programmes with a broader approach to habitat protection and management. This will be a logical and important step in improving wildlife management in the Yukon.

The Wildlife Act is currently being rewritten. Work is being done on developing a game ranching policy. Habitat enhancement work is proceeding with a look at ways of doing more; and the department is encouraging the development of non-consumptive uses of wildlife. This work is being accomplished through such programmes as departmental field research, the Economic Development Subagreement on Renewable Resources, and through overall departmental planning. Ways are being explored to broaden wildlife uses in order to allow the build-up of community-based businesses that can take advantage of the tourist and wilderness recreation markets.



4.2 SMALL GAME

PRESENT

Small game species include furbearers (wolves, lynx, marten, muskrat, wolverine, etc.), upland and migratory game birds and non-game birds. Population numbers for most of these species are known

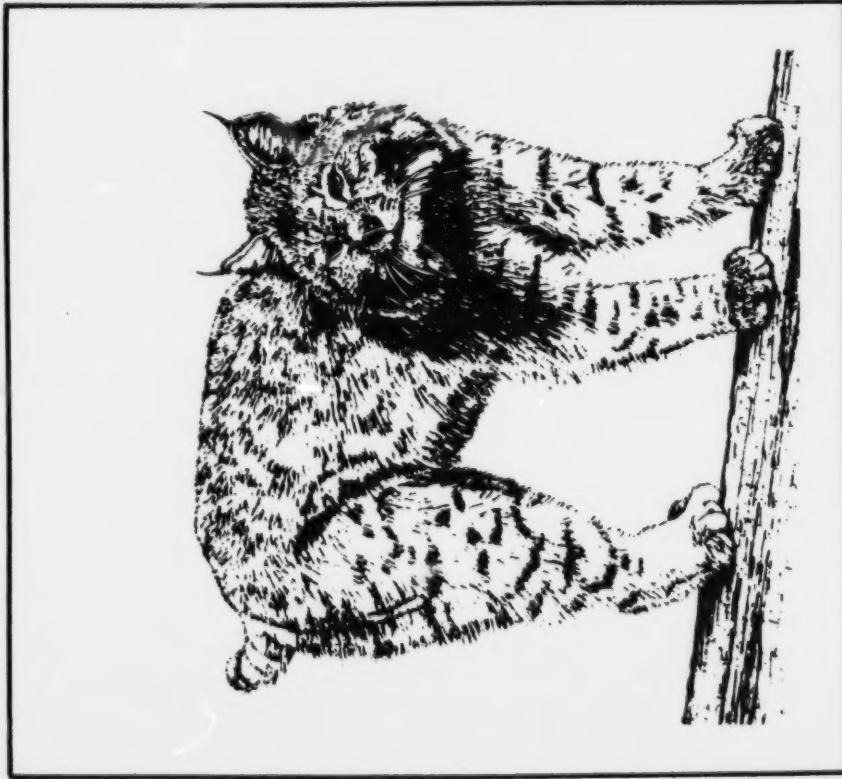
only in general terms. About 750 Yukoners trap 15 different species of furbearers on 380 registered traplines and in four group areas. Harvested fur in the Yukon has averaged about \$1-1.5 million in value for the last three years.

Pine marten, wolverine and muskrat have been selected for more detailed management planning to help maintain or rebuild their numbers. Marten have been reintroduced in a large burn area in southwest Yukon and trapping is restricted in this Marten Conservation Area. Much valuable data on age, sex and physical condition have been collected from 500 wolverine carcasses submitted by trappers over the past three winters. The muskrat harvest, which is a significant cultural event for the community of Old Crow, and which represents 75% of the territory's total muskrat harvest, is being studied to develop more effective management plans.

Lynx, as the most valuable furbearer in the Yukon, is a continuing concern. The cyclical population fluctuations complicate the management problems and it is not easy to determine appropriate harvest levels. The lynx harvest strategy is under review and new work is being undertaken to help determine the effects of the harvest during the low point of each population cycle. Lynx trapping regulations in the future will be based on this work.

Wolves can be managed differently in different areas. They are a furbearer valuable to trappers; they are a predator that preys on moose and affect sport hunting success; and they are also a highly-desirable wildlife species encountered as part of a wilderness experience. As a result wolf management programmes are often controversial, as well as being difficult to design and complete effectively.

Management of small game occurs under the terms of the Wildlife Act and Regulations and the Trapping Regulations. Also, before certain fur pelts or endangered bird species can be exported out of



Canada, a CITES permit (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) must first be obtained. The Yukon also participates in the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. (Both of them also apply to Big Game).

Upland game birds (grouse), migratory game birds (ducks, geese and swans) and non-game birds are also a departmental responsibility. The migratory species are a joint responsibility with the Canadian Wildlife Service and considerable effort is focused on identifying and eventually protecting the habitats of these species. Wetland habitats in particular (Nisutlin Delta, Old Crow Flats and Tagish Narrows) are both important to the species and sensitive to disturbance. Improved protection of these areas is necessary.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There are many examples of continuing and special projects which attempt to both educate the public and improve the management of our small game species.

The territory-wide Trapper Education and Community Workshops are part of a co-operative programme with the Yukon Trappers Association. They keep trappers informed about the latest development in efficient and humane harvesting methods, species management and proper pelt preparation. Questionnaires are sent annually to trappers who provide information about furbearers on their trapping concessions.

The Dempster Corridor Management Interpretive Project provides visitors with an opportunity to view and understand wildlife and learn more about this unique northern region. It is anticipated that resources permitting, programmes such as this one could be expanded and extended to other parts of the Yukon.

Continuing public consultation on small game management occurs through the 10 member Wildlife Advisory Committee, Indian bands and organizations such as the Yukon Trappers Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Conservation Society, and through local fur councils.



SMALL GAME ISSUES

1. THE ANTI-TRAPPING LOBBY

A mounting anti-trapping lobby, international in scope, threatens the existence of our trapping industry. More importantly, it also threatens the destruction of the social and cultural lifestyle of aboriginal people. The Minister of Renewable Resources has committed the government to the following action:

- mounting an extensive counter-attack, combining forces with other Canadian provinces
- designing our own programme, showing Yukon conditions
- funding industry groups mounting counter-campaigns
- playing a central role as a government in a pro-trapping campaign.

2. HABITAT PROTECTION

Some form of protection is necessary for large wetland areas. Migrating waterfowl use them as key staging areas (for resting, feeding) in spring and fall, or for breeding and moulting during summer. Protection of smaller, specific sites used by breeding and nesting birds of prey (as in the Dempster Highway Corridor) is also important. In both cases, habitat or site protection limits other types of resource uses and protection close to agricultural areas also leads to conflicts.

- Option: — to strictly protect certain habitat areas

It is important to remember that there is a need to protect the habitat of all big and small game species, not only waterfowl. Each animal species has its own important areas and we must work to protect these as well.

3. FUR FARMING

The Yukon remains the only area in Canada which permits the live-trapping and export of furbearers to provide breeding stock for fur ranching. The expansion of the Canadian fur ranching industry both inside and outside the Yukon to include more wild fur species is seen by some to threaten the present market for wild fur.

- Options: — stop the existing export programme
— stop the existing programmes, and develop a local fur ranching industry that complements wild fur production

FUTURE

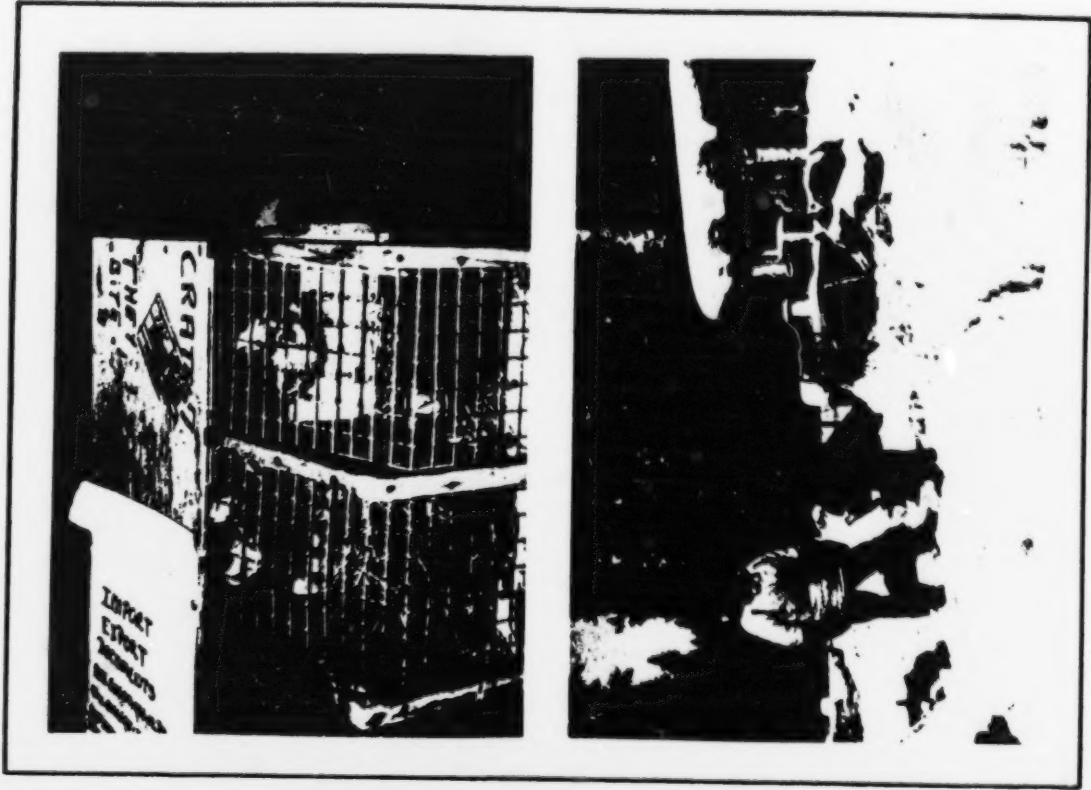
It is the department's intention to continue to support trapping through trapper education and training programmes that emphasize the most effective means of trapping animals humanely and the proper handling of pelts.

Non-traditional and non-consumptive opportunities in the area of small game will be encouraged. Such an example could be the development of bird viewing and interpretation opportunities close to wetland areas, for tourists and residents alike.

The department supports the development of secondary industries based on fur. Options include a local fur auction, a fur garment production industry and a tannery. Support of the counter-movement to the anti-trapping lobby will continue. The muskrat harvest and management study on the Old Crow Flats is expected to continue to 1986. The marten transplant project will continue, with additional marten being introduced to the Marten Conservation Area and continued protection provided by trapping season closures. The department will continue to support the Fur Institute of Canada, a national organization with a mandate for promoting and enhancing Canada's

raw fur industry. It will also continue to support the work of Indigenous Survival International.

The department will continue to work with Ducks Unlimited and the Canadian Wildlife Service in the identification of important wetland areas and in co-operative management programmes to protect wetland areas. Habitat protection in general, for other animal species with critical habitat needs, will be an ongoing departmental priority.



4.3 AGRICULTURE

PRESENT

There are an estimated 30 full-time and 75 part-time farmers in the Yukon, with approximately 1660 hectares (4100 acres) of land in production. Crop and livestock production is estimated to be:

Oats (green feed)	365 hectares
Wheat	8 hectares
Barley (for grain)	59 hectares
Forage (mostly brome grass)	1214 hectares
Vegetables (excluding greenhouses)	6 hectares
Potatoes	13 hectares
Horses	2500
Cattle	500
Hogs	1000
Dairy	40
Poultry	7000

The retail value of crops and livestock of Yukon farms was about \$1.3 million in 1984.

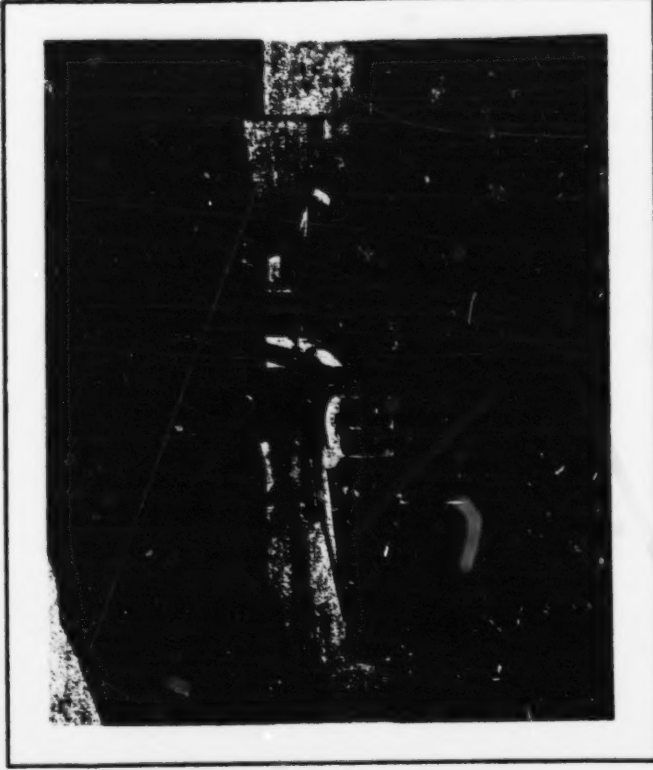
An additional 4170 hectares (10,300 acres) of grazing lease lands were transferred from the federal to the Yukon government in 1985. Such transfers will continue as a more viable industry continues to develop.

The primary goal of the agriculture unit of Renewable Resources is to support the development of a self-sustaining agricultural industry in the Yukon. The unit is responsible for agricultural demonstration and assistance programmes offered by the department.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The agriculture staff of Renewable Resources provides advice to farmers, reviews applications for agricultural land, advises the government on farming issues and conducts research on crops. The fed-

eral and Yukon governments provide funding for agricultural projects and for studies under the Economic Development Agreement and for special projects such as the New Crop Development Programme. Farmers' concerns are addressed through the Agricultural Planning Advisory Committee, a ministerial advisory group. The farming community also has a member on the Wildlife Advisory Committee. An Act makes provision for an Agricultural Products Appeal Board to be established to hear farmers' complaints about inspectors and recommend compensation payments to eligible farmers.



AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Agriculture played an important part in the economy of rural communities in the first half of this century. Once again it is a growing sector of the Yukon economy. Limits to agricultural growth occur largely because of climate and the availability of productive land. Our relatively poor understanding of the types of crops that can be grown in the north is being helped by new research programmes and demonstration trials. There are a growing number of individuals interested in agricultural production and there is an expectation that more land will become available in the future. Agricultural expansion will give rise to several important issues.

1. WILDLIFE-AGRICULTURE CONFLICTS

Wild animals will occasionally attack farm animals or eat farm crops. This problem might be reduced or solved by:

- Options: — providing farmers with better information about protecting their animals and crops
- compensating farmers for losses
- locating or relocating farms in areas where conflicts will be minimized
- requiring farmers to fence fields

2. TRAPPER-FARMER CONFLICTS

The development of a new farm could block a trapper's access to a trapline and thus disturb the trapping operation. This problem can be reduced or prevented by:

- Options: — obtaining the trapper's consent before a new farm is developed on the trapping concession
- compensating trappers when a new farm disrupts the operation
- developing a co-operative approach to resolving potential conflicts before serious disputes occur

(by allowing trappers access onto farmlands, developing agreements with farmers and trappers regarding their respective rights and responsibilities)

3. AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Yukon government has developed a process for reviewing applications for agricultural land. Transfer of all of the land that could potentially be used for farming has not yet occurred from the federal to the Yukon government. In the meantime, the Yukon government is committed to preparing an agriculture policy. This policy will determine to a large extent how land is released for farming. The policy will emphasize that agricultural activities in the Yukon must be self-sufficient and must be based on market demands. In other words, we should grow and produce what we can competitively sell to local consumers and not invest in operations or activities that are non-competitive and that will need government subsidies.

- Options: — to develop a general agricultural policy that is designed to promote a broad range of agricultural activities
- to develop a policy that places a **priority** on the production of high demand and potentially profitable crops such as vegetables, poultry products and greenhouse produce

4. LIVESTOCK CONTROL

Free-ranging cattle and horses cause problems when they stray onto roadways (traffic hazard) and onto private land. They also may wander, and end up competing with wildlife for critical habitat areas outside of agricultural lease areas.

- Options: — require livestock owners to fence their animals
- enforce regulations that penalize owners whose livestock cause property damage

5. AGRICULTURE SUPPORT SERVICES

The department provides extension services, in the form of advice on crops and growing conditions, as it works with the agricultural community. There are concerns about the future priorities of such an extension programme because these services will do much to encourage or discourage certain agricultural initiatives.

- Options:
- limit extension services to those crops which have been traditionally grown
 - promote experimental crops
 - limit extension services to crops which have been defined as a high priority in an agricultural policy

6. AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY CONFLICTS

Much of the best agricultural land is also the best land for producing forests. Developing new areas for agriculture often reduces the land available for forestry.

- Options:
- to continue to develop agricultural land assuming it will be more important than forestry
 - to compromise, through a land use planning process and to reserve land for both uses
 - to create an agricultural land reserve and promote the best use of the land within the reserve
 - to ensure that wood cut during land clearing for agriculture is harvested properly and not wasted

FUTURE

Territorial agriculture programmes are in their infancy and there are many good ideas for new initiatives. The department will continue to consult and work with the agricultural community and with Agriculture Canada on ways in which farmers can get the best yields and the best economic returns on their produce.



4.4 PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

PRESENT

The natural and cultural heritage of the Yukon is important for several reasons. As a society, we value our environment because it sustains life and provides the basis for cultural and economic growth and diversification. There is value therefore, simply in the existence of a diverse range of other species, in preserving environments for sustainable use by present and future generations, and in ensuring that ecological processes are not disrupted or fundamentally altered.

The Yukon has an extraordinary natural heritage with diverse landscapes, wild rivers and unique environmental features. Yet there is no systematic form of protection for these resources, nor are there any criteria for the selection of sites or areas to include in a system of protected areas. The federal government, through Parks Canada, protects two large areas (Kluane, North Yukon) and the Yukon has one candidate for inclusion in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (the Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River, Lake Laberge to Hootalinqua). The parks unit of Renewable Resources is developing plans for the Yukon's first two territorial parks (Herschel Island, Coal River Springs) and there are several park proposal areas but these have not been systematically evaluated.

A detailed parks policy and park system plan are needed for the Yukon. This would include a range of protective mechanisms for unique features, representative landscapes, wild rivers and historic trails and others. Once this is developed the department will be better able to achieve the fundamental goal of conserving and protecting our important natural heritage.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The parks staff undertake assessment and planning activities for new parks and campgrounds, and for upgrading existing parks. Public involvement in park planning has included "drop-in" sessions and

community meetings on Coal River Springs Park and the Tatchun-Frenchman recreational road. Planning meetings with the people of Old Crow and with the Inuvialuit will occur this winter on the development of a draft master park plan for Herschel Island. It is the intention of the department to ensure that these opportunities for involvement continue to be provided during the development of a system of parks and protected areas.



PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS ISSUES



The federal and territorial governments recently released the report of the Northern Conservation Task Force. This group, which had Yukon members, recommended approaches to northern conservation and criteria for the selection of protected areas. The Yukon government is participating in discussions about implementation of the task force recommendations and adapting them to fit Yukon circumstances.

There is general agreement with the Task Force on most aspects of northern conservation. However, when we consider individual proposals for protected areas problems emerge, including the following:

1. DESIGNATING PROTECTED AREAS

Protecting landscapes, unique features, or rivers is often a difficult process requiring a range of protective mechanisms. Conflicts arise when existing or potential resource uses are at odds with the principal purposes for protecting the area. Many such problems can be resolved through land use planning processes, particularly if there are alternative areas which can be considered for protection.

The most serious conflicts occur with the exploration and development activities of the mining and oil and gas industries. The extraction of non-renewable resources is generally incompatible with protected area status. Significant conflicts can also occur with agricultural developers and forestry operators.

What is needed is a mechanism and criteria to select and evaluate candidate areas for protected area status. Conflicts with other resource uses can be worked out on an area by area basis.

2. WILDLIFE HARVESTING AND PROTECTED AREAS

Some important conservation areas often contain wildlife which

has traditionally been hunted or trapped. This is recognized in the case of the Yukon's north slope where the Inuvialuit are allowed traditional harvesting rights in the new national park.

- Options: — to exclude trappers and outfitters from operating within parks and protected areas and compensate for the losses
 — to allow all traditional activities to continue within parks and protected areas
 — to decide on the question of hunting and trapping in parks on a park by park basis

3. ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT METHODS

At present, there are 47 territorial campgrounds and day use areas. There is often disagreement about the appropriate level of government involvement in campground operations and sometimes government is seen to be competing with the private sector campgrounds, particularly when we expand the number of parks.

- Options: — government management of territorial parks
 — joint management agreement with communities, organizations, Indian bands, and private sector management
 — government can focus on new kinds of parks and protected areas and de-emphasize the development of new campground facilities, leaving that job for the private sector

FUTURE

New territorial parks will be established to conserve representative Yukon landscapes, unique environmental features, wild rivers, trails and other recreation corridors, and heritage sites. Protecting a wide range of areas will provide the basis for long term growth in tourism and recreation as well as ensuring that our natural heritage is preserved.

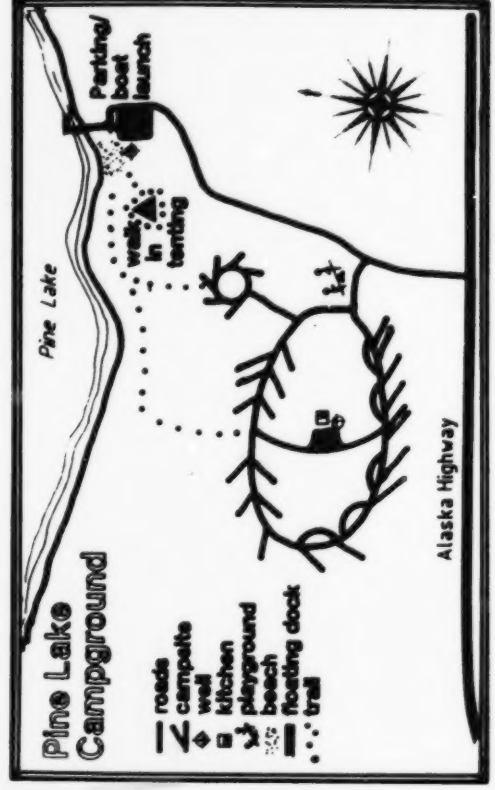
Outdoor recreation can occur inside or outside of parks. There is a need for a method to decide on the types of outdoor recreation

developments that are desirable. The department is proceeding with an "Outdoor Recreation Strategy" to help in deciding what to do and where to do it.

In planning and developing new parks, it is important to consider the history and heritage of the aboriginal people of the Yukon. Most parks, and heritage parks in particular, can include native cultural interpretation programmes. Consultation will take place with native communities as these programmes are developed. Indian people will have an opportunity to participate in these programmes as they are being implemented.

There is a need to expand the number of ideas that are used to attract tourists to our parks and to the Yukon. We do a good job of interpreting the Klondike but there are many other Yukon features which require further work.

All of these activities will be undertaken with input from the Economic Development and Tourism departments, in co-operation with Parks Canada and with input from the Yukon public.



4.5 WILDERNESS RECREATION

PRESENT SITUATION

The wilderness recreation industry in the Yukon serves two different markets. Traditional guiding and outfitting of hunters and anglers continues to be extremely important to the economy. Recently this has been supplemented by a growing market for wilderness adventures by foot, horse, canoe and kayak. The areas used by big game outfitters are specified in regulations under the Wildlife Act. It is not considered necessary at this time to provide a similar level of

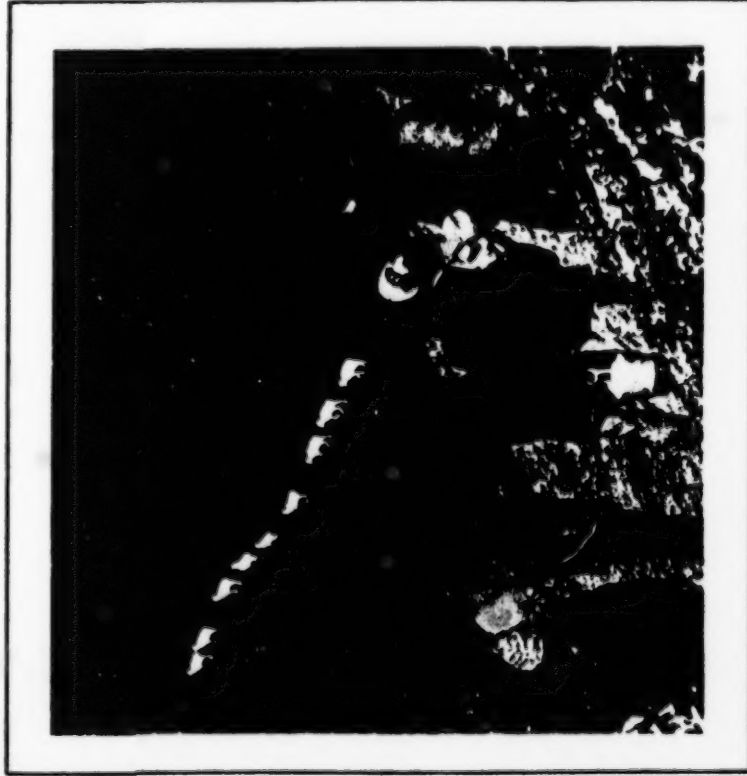
regulation for those guides who do not harvest fish or wildlife populations, although initial steps are being taken to provide a degree of guide training and certification.

There are 20 big game outfitters working in the Yukon. Approximately 500 clients are served each year adding \$2.5 million to the Yukon economy. Clients come from southern Canada, the United States, western Europe and Japan. Sportfishing guides and lodges are estimated to add an additional \$500,000 annually. There are approximately 35 adventure travel guides located within the Yukon and several outside companies regularly operate within the territory. They are estimated to add another \$500,000 annually to the economy and this is expected to grow steadily over the next few years. In total the direct and indirect benefits to the Yukon are \$5-million to \$6 million annually. Although the big game outfitting business is limited by biological realities, better marketing and government support of the adventure travel industry can significantly increase the economic benefits to Yukoners.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There has been both formal and informal participation in Renewable Resources programmes by the big game outfitters. There are yearly formal meetings with the Outfitters Association to explain departmental research and regulations. On a less formal basis there has been direct contact between biological staff and outfitters to help establish harvest levels. Outfitters and the government have agreements on the management of the grizzly harvest.

In recent years there has been increasing liaison with the adventure travel industry. Co-operative approaches are being sought to develop standards for guides and there is increasing awareness in the government of the significance of this component of the tourism market in the Yukon.



WILDERNESS RECREATION ISSUES

1. CONFLICTS WITH OTHER LAND USERS

Big game outfitters and wilderness adventure travel guides need relatively undeveloped areas for their operations to be successful. Other types of resource developments such as mining or forestry can frequently conflict with the wilderness recreation activities. For example, conflicts are very likely to occur in river valleys because of the historical use of rivers and valley bottoms for a variety of purposes such as placer mining, moving equipment to exploration camps and canoeing, rafting and hiking.

Options: — zone areas for exclusive recreational use
— compensate wilderness recreation operators in the event of a loss of livelihood or provide alternative areas for their use

2. CONFLICTS BETWEEN OUTFITTERS AND WILDERNESS GUIDES

Outfitters who take out hunter and angler clients may use areas which are also important to those guides who take out photographers and wilderness travellers. These activities are difficult to do in the same place at the same time.

Options: — provide permits for particular areas limiting the numbers of outfitters and guides using each area
— strictly limit wilderness guides to specific areas, during specific seasons

3. WILDERNESS RECREATION REGULATIONS

Discussion is needed to determine who should be responsible for rescues and their costs. It has been suggested that government should provide a rescue service and ensure that guides carry sufficient insurance. Government as well as wilderness guides are considering a system of standards and certification to ensure a high quality of experience and safety for clients.

FUTURE

Government planning activities may include a new system of zoning or licensing to help avoid or reduce conflicts between the various kinds of wilderness recreation. This could be part of a "Wilderness Recreation Strategy", a strategy that could include a training component.

Government may support public and private development of wilderness recreation facilities (bridges, huts, trails, etc.).

In co-operation with the Department of Tourism and tourist operators, there are opportunities to increase and improve the overseas marketing of the Yukon's wilderness travel opportunities.

There are opportunities to increase the non-traditional types of wilderness recreation in the Yukon (wilderness travel, photography, etc.) and to better advertise the opportunities to Canadians and the international community. Increasing the number and types of wilderness outfitting may lead to new conflicts with other land users.



PRESENT SITUATION

The Yukon's fish resources support commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries. The native subsistence fishery is an important part of the food supply for many people and takes precedence over other users in the management priorities of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Sport fishing is important to Yukoners and the Yukon tourist industry. Surveys since 1975 have shown that 70% of Yukoners fish each year. In 1980, sport fishing provided 170,000 person-days of angling for about 11,500 residents and 8,500 visitors. About 235,000 fish were caught and kept, mainly arctic grayling and lake trout. Commercial fisheries account for a small portion of the

4.6 FISHERIES

total take and concentrate on salmon in the Yukon River system and on lake trout and whitefish.

The department's direct involvement in fisheries is with the inland sport fishery. This involvement includes the enforcement of sport fishing regulations under the Fisheries Act and Regulations, the printing of annual sport fishing regulations, the collection of revenue from the sale of sport fish licences, and conducting or assisting in sport fishing surveys.

The Yukon government is involved with the federal government, the Council for Yukon Indians and other Yukon fisheries representatives in the Pacific Salmon Treaty Talks to negotiate an agreement on the allocation of salmon in the Yukon River system and a more equitable share of chinook and chum salmon for Canadian fishermen.

Discussion are underway with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Council for Yukon Indians for the transfer of freshwater fisheries management responsibilities to the Yukon government.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The potential transfer of management responsibilities for freshwater fisheries provides us the opportunity to design and develop new management policies and programmes which reflect the aspirations of Yukoners. Conservation of the natural resource will remain the fundamental priority and the needs of the native food fishery will continue to be of primary importance. In examining these issues and the development of the short, commercial and domestic fisheries, we have the opportunity to build new solutions to some of the management problems faced by fisheries managers. Your input will be particularly welcome, as we develop a "made in Yukon" management system.



FISHERIES ISSUES

1. SAFEGUARDING AGAINST SPORT OVERFISHING

Lake trout in the Yukon exhibit slower growth rates and later ages of maturity than do southern trout populations. As a result, trout cannot withstand high rates of harvest, and tend to be vulnerable to overfishing.

Options: — reduction of "trophy" lake trout daily and possession limits for lakes
— limiting catch sizes during spawning season
— promote "catch and release" of fish
— promote more use of other species

2. ALLOCATION OF SCARCE RESOURCES AMONG USER GROUPS

The freshwater fish resources are divided among three user groups: commercial, sport and native. In allocating opportunities for fishing the federal government allocates for escapement first, then for the native fishery followed by either domestic, commercial or sport fisheries, depending on local conditions.

Options: — keep the federal priority list for commercial, domestic and sport fishing
— change the priorities on an area by area basis

3. STOCKING

Fish stocking programmes, using rainbow trout, result in improved fishing in areas of high use (near Whitehorse) or where natural fisheries don't exist (pothole lakes) but the programme must be constantly repeated. Lake trout, Arctic grayling and northern pike are not easily restocked so once they are overfished they take a long time to come back.

Options: — continue to create artificial fishing opportunities close to Whitehorse and other high use areas
— restrict fishing opportunities in some lakes and allow the natural stocks to come back

4. FISH FARMING

Aquaculture, or the stocking and rearing of fish in natural landlocked "pothole" lakes, has been attempted in the Yukon with limited success. More research and financing have been proposed, but it is not clear how much support there should be for such programmes.

Options: — wait for the private sector to take the initiative in aquaculture programmes
— place a government priority on an aquaculture programme hoping to demonstrate the feasibility of aquaculture and the opportunities it might provide to the private sector

FUTURE

Work will continue on the transfer of inland fisheries responsibilities to the Yukon government, ensuring that provisions for protecting and increasing fish stocks are included. Co-operative habitat protection and management programmes will be an important component of the agreement.

The Yukon government will continue taking a strong position in the formal talks aimed at obtaining a U.S.-Canada agreement on the Yukon River salmon fishery.

4.7 FORESTRY

PRESENT

About 242,000 square kilometers of the Yukon (50%) can be classified as forest land. Our forests are valuable for producing lumber, firewood, and building materials, for tourism, for wildlife habitat and for prevention of soil erosion. In 1983-84 approximately



20 full and part time sawmill operators were in business. Approximately 100,000 cubic meters of wood were harvested in the Yukon.

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs manages all of the Yukon's forests found on federal land. This involves conducting inventories and research on forests, forest fire control, and issuance of timber cutting permits. The Yukon government manages forests on Commissioner's land. To date this involves only the issuance of cutting permits. Management responsibilities for forests on federal lands may be transferred to the Yukon government.

The Yukon government's proposed goal is to manage the Yukon forests for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Yukoners. Specifically, this includes taking responsibility for a comprehensive inventory of forest resources, implementing a forest management system, ensuring appropriate tree farming and reforestation techniques are used, undertaking multiple use planning, and fostering the long-term stability and growth of the Yukon forest industry.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DIAND's Northern Affairs Programme administers the existing forest management programmes, which include inventories, research, field projects, fire control, issuance of timber and land use permits, and issuance of commercial leases. The Yukon government issues timber cutting permits on Commissioner's Lands. The federal and Yukon governments are providing funding for forestry projects and studies under the Canada-Yukon Economic Development Agreement (E.D.A.).

With the transfer of management responsibility the Yukon government is committed to involving interested groups and individuals in forest allocation, management and planning.

FORESTRY ISSUES

Much of the productive forest land in the Yukon is also useful for agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreation. A balanced view of all of these uses would lead us to suggest that not all of the timber that can be cut should be cut. A commitment to multiple use planning means that some areas will be allocated for uses other than timber harvesting. Without a complete forest inventory, without a forest planning system and with divided government responsibility for forests, wildlife, agriculture and recreation, the potential for conflicts is quite high.

1. FOREST HARVESTING IMPACTS ON OTHER RESOURCE USERS

The economic future of other renewable resources users (agriculture, trapping, outfitting) can be affected by timber harvesting activities. Although these various uses are seldom completely at odds, there is a need to design timber harvesting programmes to minimize the impacts on others in a particular area. To do this effectively means that the Department of Renewable Resources needs a well structured forest planning and management system, as well as a method to resolve disputes. Such a system must be flexible enough to ensure that local community needs have a direct influence on the land use priorities in each area.

2. FOREST HARVESTING IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

Forest harvesting has both direct and indirect effects on wildlife. Timber cutting changes habitats and can lead to significant changes in wildlife populations. The most serious indirect effects result from the creation of new access roads which almost inevitably leads to increased hunting pressures and poaching.

- Options:
- develop methods to restrict access on forest roads
 - avoid road development in critical wildlife habitat

3. ECONOMIC USES OF FOREST RESOURCES

The suggested economic uses of the Yukon forests range from a proposal to build a pulp mill to proposals to use local wood to heat offices and apartments and to cut lumber for construction materials.

- Options:
- develop an industry focused on supplying products for southern and foreign markets
 - develop an industry oriented towards small community operators and local market needs

4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Widespread cutting and logging can cause soil erosion, damage fish and wildlife habitat and destroy scenic wilderness areas. However, regulations which protect the environment and reduce timber harvest can affect the number of short term jobs created by forestry activities.

- Options:
- develop a forest management system to maximize timber production
 - develop a forest management system that will allow for a viable forestry industry while safeguarding the environment through strict cutting regulations

5. FUEL WOOD

Yukoners are increasingly using wood to heat their homes and offices. Easy access to good fire-killed wood and air pollution are becoming problems for some communities.

- Options:
- establish fuelwood reserves
 - attempt to limit the use of wood for heating
 - promote the use of more efficient wood furnaces and stoves

FUTURE

The Yukon government may take more control over forests from the federal government. If it does, it will have to develop a forest management policy and legislation to protect the environment and to

encourage viable, environmentally-sound economic development opportunities. Underlying this commitment is a basic intent to ensure an adequate and continuous supply of wood for use in the Yukon.

4.8 WATER

PRESENT

The Yukon's water resources are valued for their pristine quality, for transportation uses, for fish and wildlife habitat, for wilderness recreation opportunities, for generation of electricity, and for domestic use. The federal departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Northern Canada Power Commission (NCP) have almost all the responsibility for managing the Yukon's rivers, lakes, and other water resources.

While the Yukon has lots of good clean water, there are several continuing and emerging problems with water use in the territory. Examples include:

- placer mining without the necessary safeguards significantly decreases water quality by dramatically increasing sediment loads
- toxic contamination of surface and ground water from poorly constructed and maintained mine tailings areas
- surface water contamination because of poorly treated sewage released from large communities
- human health problems due to drinking of untreated water, particularly downstream of communities.

These and other issues require far more attention.

The primary objective of the Yukon government at this time is to provide for the wise use of the water resource, ensuring that the needs

of the Yukon's fish and wildlife are met, that domestic water quality is protected and that the territory's water systems remain free of pollutants.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Territorial Water Board is established to issue Water Licenses and regulate water use. Yukon residents are represented on the Territorial Water Board and make presentations to it when it holds public hearings on water use applications. The Department of Renewable Resources may also make submissions to the Water Board when resources under its control are affected by developments.

The federal, British Columbia and Yukon governments completed the Yukon River Basin Study in 1984. The many uses and values of rivers and lakes in the Yukon River basin were examined. The government now has a better understanding of how the water resources of the Yukon River basin are used and how they should be managed. Information about the Yukon River Basin Study can be obtained from the Department of Renewable Resources and the Water Resources Branch of DIAND in Whitehorse.

The Yukon has signed an intergovernmental agreement to designate rivers as heritage rivers under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River between Lake Laberge and Hootalinqua is being considered for such designation.

WATER ISSUES

1. YUKON GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN FEDERAL REGULATORY ISSUES

The establishment of water management and protection regulations and the issuance of water use licences are federal responsibilities in the Yukon. However, the Yukon government has a strong interest in water issues because water is an important factor in our economy and in the quality of life of Yukoners.

Options: — take an increased role in federal regulatory processes through active intervention in water issues
— take a research and advisory role only
— work for rapid transfer of management responsibilities

2. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Provincial governments in Canada are responsible for almost all aspects of water management such as issuing water licences, enforcing water quality regulations, the generation of hydroelectricity, and making water allocation decisions. The Yukon government wishes to protect water for community use, for wildlife and fisheries habitat, for irrigation and for wilderness recreation purposes but these remain primarily federal responsibilities.

Options: — seek to take provincial type responsibility
— do not take on any additional responsibilities
— seek to increase its responsibilities in some areas (such as water licencing) and not others

3. WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY PROTECTION

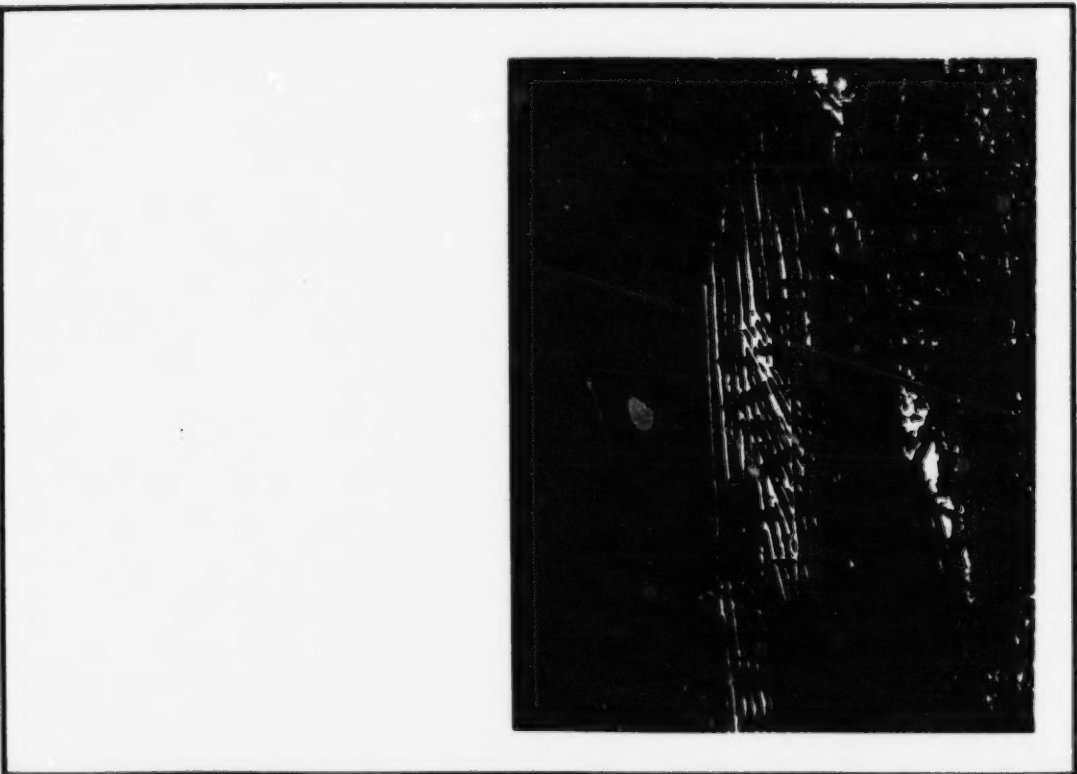
Activities such as placer mining, hard rock mining, and others requiring effluent or sewage treatment have direct and serious effects on water quality, fish habitat and other renewable resources. The de-

partment will continue to work with the placer industry and the federal government toward an acceptable solution that meets the needs of the mining industry, while protecting important fish and wildlife habitat and ensuring a high quality of water in placer mining watersheds.

FUTURE

The Department of Renewable Resources does not have direct responsibility for water management at this time but intends to work towards the development of a water management framework. This will be a necessary step in any transfer of responsibilities from the federal government. This work will also help to organize the department's existing programmes and allow us to place priorities on our activities.





5.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The importance of public involvement in Renewable Resources programmes has been emphasized throughout the **Green Paper**. The department is committed to continue, improve and expand opportunities for consultation with interest groups and individuals. The department recognizes the importance of a broadly-based public understanding of renewable resource issues and the need to develop co-operative approaches to problem solving.

There are many avenues available to the public through which input can be made regarding most aspects of renewable resource programmes.

Specially Appointed Committees/Groups

- Wildlife Advisory Committee
- Porcupine Caribou Management Board
- Agriculture Planning Advisory Committee

Examples of Yukon Organizations Which Are Encouraged To Provide Input

- Outfitters Association
- Trappers Association
- Yukon Conservation Society
- Council for Yukon Indians
- Yukon Fish and Game Association
- Yukon Livestock and Agriculture Association
- Association of Wilderness Guides
- Yukon Visitors Association

Other Methods for Individual Input

- contact with conservation officers
- hunter questionnaires
- biological submissions
- speaking to Members of the Legislative Assembly
- public meetings
- talk shows

Proposed Methods for Improving Public Involvement

The department is working with the Council for Yukon Indians, the federal government and other Yukon government departments on a land use planning process for the Yukon. In many ways this is a co-operative resource management programme which will help resolve local conflicts over resource uses. Meetings and workshops in local communities would be used to develop understanding and agreement between conflicting user groups or individuals. This would occur before any department decision about how resources, such as forests and fish are used and what management practices are appropriate.

QUESTIONS

1. Do we have an adequate public participation programme at the present time? How would you improve it?
2. What would be appropriate ways to improve the department's communication with Yukoners?
3. Are there specific programmes or projects which could be improved?



5.2 CONSERVATION EDUCATION

PRESENT

The Information-Education section of the Policy and Planning Branch provides a variety of educational and information services to the general public, and to personnel within the department. These include:

- responding by letter or telephone to public inquiries about the status and nature of our renewable resources
- providing educational programmes to students, special interest groups and the general public
- instructing firearms safety education programmes
- producing a wide variety of resource oriented printed material including hunting, sport fishing and trapping synopses
- producing audio-visual slide shows on wildlife management or specific concerns.

PROGRAMMES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. The Firearms Safety Conservation Education Programme stresses the safe handling of firearms, the importance of wildlife and its management, and the role of the sports person in the outdoors.
2. The Junior Trapping Programme attempts to make students aware of the value of wildlife to trappers and to others by introducing students to the traditional trapper lifestyle, and to basic wildlife biology and management.
3. Classroom presentations are given on a wide range of resource topics by conservation officers, biologists and technicians. Outdoor education experiences and field trips often follow.
4. The general public can participate in these programmes through:
 - community meetings to discuss wildlife management program-

- mes and to listen to community concerns
- activities related to National Wildlife Week, National Forest Week and Environment Week
- involvement in "Nature Appreciation Day" sponsored by the Yukon Fish and Game Association or in "Careers Day" sponsored by the Department of Education.

FUTURE

The department is committed to the expansion and support of new efforts to involve and educate Yukoners in renewable resource management. With the future transfer of new responsibilities, there will be a need to update and develop programmes to reflect these changes. The Yukon public can be the department's best source of information and play an important role in all aspects of management.

The department will also look to effective ways in which the Canadian and foreign public can be made aware of the wealth of natural resources in the area. Your opinions about appropriate new education programmes would be appreciated.

QUESTIONS

1. How can we best expand the range of conservation education programmes?
2. What existing programmes should be modified? How?



5.3 ENFORCEMENT

PRESENT

The enforcement of Renewable Resource legislation is carried out by the enforcement section of the Fish and Wildlife Branch. The Yukon is divided into three geographic regions with two staffed district offices in each. The 12 permanent conservation officers are stationed in Watson Lake, Ross River, Dawson City, Mayo, Haines Junction and Whitehorse. There is also one unstaffed office in Old Crow, for which the northern region is responsible.

Statutes which the enforcement section is responsible for enforcing include:

- Wildlife Act and Regulations
- Trapping Regulations
- Parks Act and Campground Regulations
- Fisheries Act and Regulations
- Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations
- Brands and Pounds Acts
- Import and Export Permits Act
- Forest Protection Act
- some sections of the criminal code.

Conservation officers serve as highly visible and frequently the only departmental representatives in the community. They are often the first contact with the Yukon government for tourists as well as residents. Conservation officer responsibilities include:

- public relations and conservation-education programmes
- assisting in wildlife management programmes
- trapline management
- issuing licences and permits
- conducting investigations
- disposing of nuisance or orphaned wildlife
- maintaining relations with the outfitting industry
- working in conjunction with other government agencies.

Meeting these responsibilities requires:

- extensive travel and backcountry patrols
- a thorough knowledge of, and involvement with, the justice system
- maintaining extensive records of daily activities.

Conservation officers rely heavily on the general public in carrying out their duties. Public participation is encouraged through the reporting of wildlife violations, as well as through the Volunteer Auxiliary Conservation Officer Programme.

QUESTIONS

1. How can enforcement procedures be improved?



5.4 RESEARCH

PRESENT

The Department of Renewable Resources is involved with research in a variety of ways:

- it conducts research in support of resource management and planning
- it funds research under programmes such as the Economic Development Agreement
- it co-operates with other agencies conducting research (such as research conducted under the Yukon River Basin Study Agreement)
- it regulates research activity involving wildlife, under the provisions of the Wildlife Regulations
- it assists other agencies and organizations conducting research by providing information to them on the Yukon's renewable resources and by hosting seminars and conferences.

A great deal of the department's work involves conducting research. Research is done on proposed campground sites to ensure that they have features to make them pleasant and safe camping places. Proposed park sites are researched to determine if the area should be protected or developed, and how it should be protected or developed. Research is done on wildlife to determine why a population is growing or declining, and what can be done to ensure viable populations thrive.

Examples of research conducted or assisted by the department include:

- predator-prey studies in southwest Yukon to determine the causes of moose calf deaths
- public meetings on the proposed Coal River Springs park
- habitat and plant studies on Herschel Island
- on-site examination of potential campground locations on the South Canol road

- studies to determine the effectiveness of fertilizer use on gardens
- plot trials to determine what types of crops grow best in the Yukon
- review of other governments' policies, legislation, and reports to determine their usefulness to the Yukon
- growing various plant types in gravel pits along the Dempster Highway to determine which are best for revegetating them.

Under the Canada-Yukon Economic Development Agreement (E.D.A.) the department is promoting and supporting marketing and feasibility studies for projects in the wildlife, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wilderness recreation sectors. Funding is available to individuals, organizations, and businesses that want to conduct research on projects which could benefit the renewable resources sector of the Yukon's economy. **More information on this programme is available from the Department of Renewable Resources, Box 2703, #10 Burns Road, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6.**

QUESTIONS

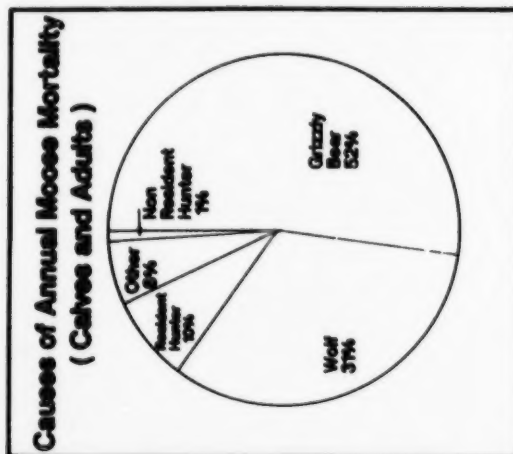
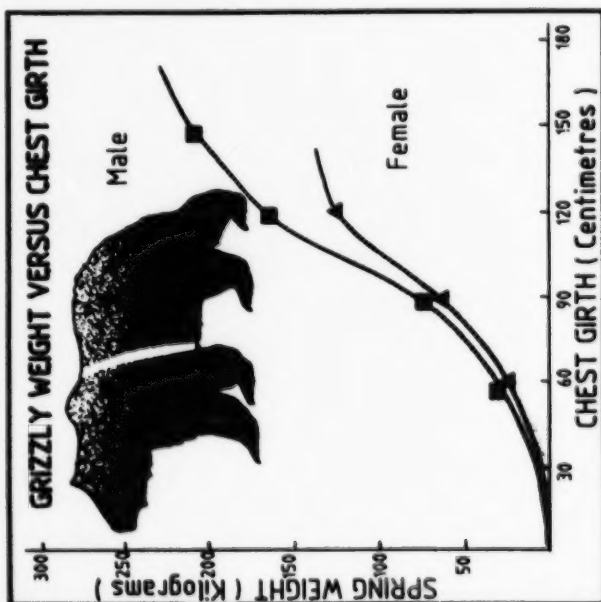
1. There needs to be greater use of community knowledge about fish and wildlife resources in each area. We believe that it is possible to develop community-based research programmes so that local people and government can co-operate in joint management programmes. What do you think? Where should we begin?
2. Some people may feel that the government is not studying the right things, or that it is not providing funding to do research on the most important wildlife and renewable resource issues. What do you think the government should be studying? What types of research should the government be funding?

- Many studies conducted by or for government end up on library shelves or in departmental files. How can the government provide people with better information about what is being studied and what the results of the research mean to you?

FUTURE

The department will continue the existing research programmes for wildlife and wildlife habitat, parks, land use planning and agriculture. New and expanded research programmes will be proposed on alternative uses of our different resources. It will be important to do more and to make better use of our research results in our management activities.

The Department of Renewable Resources will fund research under the Economic Development Agreement until 1989. Studies conducted under this agreement will be evaluated, and further Canada-Yukon agreements may be negotiated. The department will continue discussing its research work with the public on an ongoing basis through community meetings, presentations and publications.



5.5 NEW PROGRAMMES

A number of federal government responsibilities will be transferred to the territorial government over the next few years. This means that new programmes should be developed to organize departmental activities for water, inland fisheries and forestry.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The federal government regulates the transportation of dangerous goods, the transport and disposal of toxic materials, air and water pollution control and provides emergency response capabilities for accidents such as oil spills. These responsibilities are provided under federal legislation (Northern Inland Waters Act, Fisheries Act, etc.). The opportunity exists to develop comprehensive environmental protection legislation for the Yukon which will include many of these responsibilities. This means the opportunity to improve, consolidate and streamline the present government activities, which will be good for government, private business, and the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW

The effects of human activities (industrial developments) on the Yukon environment are primarily assessed under federal guidelines and legislation, with involvement by the Yukon government. The principal responsibility for the environmental assessment and review of projects in the territory can be taken up by the Yukon government. The opportunity exists therefore, to improve and streamline the procedures used by designing a new approach which reflects the special needs, circumstances and local conditions in the Yukon.

PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING RENEWABLE RESOURCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Renewable Resources is adding to its programmes to support renewable resource economic development in

co-operation with the Departments of Economic Development and Tourism. Examples include:

- partial sponsorship and support of private sector projects, under the Renewable Resources Section of the Economic Development Agreement
- trapper education programmes to improve trapline management and fur quality
- co-operative management programmes with big game outfitters
- co-operative projects with the private sector in forestry and agriculture
- co-operation with other government agencies and the private sector to enhance the wilderness recreation industry.



6. APPENDIX

6.1 Renewable Resource Legislation: A Brief Description

Territorial Legislation

<u>Name of Act</u>	<u>Year Enacted</u>	<u>Issues Addressed</u>	<u>Status</u>
• Wildlife Act	1981	Management, protection and rehabilitation of the Yukon's wildlife resources; governs the issuance of a variety of licences, permits, certificates and concessions.	Currently being rewritten
• Parks Act	1979	Enables a system of different types of parks and provides for the development of parks and control of park users.	Administered by the department
• Brands Act	1967	Is designed to monitor and control the use and registration of brands used on domestic livestock; the control and branding of stallions and the sale of branded stock.	Enforced to control stallions at large
• Pounds Acts	1958	Addresses the free ranging animals trespassing onto private land in "pounds districts" within the territory.	There are no "pounds keepers"
• Forest Protection Act	1958	Deals with forested areas of economic, recreational or wildlife value, and the control of wildfire; through regulating the fire season and issuing of burning permits.	Administered by the federal government
• Land Use Planning & Development Act	1982	Allows for a Yukon Land Use Planning Process.	Not proclaimed

Federal Legislation

<u>Name of Act</u>	<u>Year Enacted</u>	<u>Issues Addressed</u>	<u>Status</u>
• Fisheries Act	R.S.C. 1970 (c. F-14)	Deals with the management and protection of fisheries resources.	The department collects sport fishing revenue and enforces sport fishing regulations
• Migratory Birds Convention Act	1916	Deals with the protection of migratory birds in conjunction with the U.S.A., Mexico and Canada.	The department enforces the Act and Regulations